

Minutes for Tree & Forest Committee Meeting

Monday December 7, 2015 4:00PM Town Library

1. Call to order at 4:02pm. Attendees: Paula Byrdy, Kacy Westwood, Jim Neureuther.
2. Minutes from Nov 9, 2015 were approved as written. Signed copy was given to Town Clerk and electronic copy mailed to Town Secretary.
3. Treasurer's Report. The FY16 Account Fund 100 balance is \$0. The Revolving Fund Account 285 balance is \$5,629.97 as shown below. Thank you note was sent to the Spatz family for their \$100 donation. This healthy balance is needed going into 2016 where we will face known expenses for inoculation (budget \$1200) and pruning (budget \$2400) for King Elmer. Other expenses will be newsletter printing (budget \$250) and plaques for trees (budget \$650) plus Arbor Day costs and any new initiative expenses.

\$	4,662.09		11/2/2015	Tree donation	\$	500.00	Robert and Lyn Petricca PO Box 1910, Lanesboro 01237 for 2 memorial trees
\$	4,623.70		11/16/2015	expense	\$	(38.39)	UPS postage for tree donated thru Elm Research, Keene, NH
\$	4,467.72		11/16/2015	expense	\$	(155.98)	Jim buy 2 crabapple (Malus Sugar Tyme) from Whitneys plus tree guards
\$	4,567.72		11/16/2015	donation	\$	100.00	Alice & Larry Spatz PO Box 324 Lanesboro
\$	5,805.72		11/16/2015	fund raise	\$	1,238.00	proceeds from Texas Hold'em Nov 15 after paying 50:50, Poker, Skyline
\$	5,629.97		11/16/2015	expense	\$	(175.75)	Mass State Lottery Comm. 5% tax due on gross proceeds of poker

4. Fundraising Wrapup of Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Skyline Nov 15
 - a. 44 players (36 of 60 preregistered, 8 walkins) with 5 player tables. 41 bought extra chips with \$10 donations to Tree Committee. We had \$4,251 Total poker fees and donations including \$215 50:50 Raffle gross receipts. Expenses were \$2,200 poker prize payout to top 5 finishers, \$108 payout to raffle winner, \$455 to Berkshire Poker, and \$250 to Skyline for the meal. At the end of the day we had a net take of \$1,062.25 after paying \$175.75 for Mass 5% tax on Gross receipts for Poker entry fees and Raffle. A very successful afternoon and all the cookies were gone by the end! Jim will contact Berkshire Poker to set a date for next Nov to have another Poker tournament.
5. 250th Commemorative Tree Plantings
 - a. Status planting of 14 trees at Laston Park. We received a plaque from the Elm Institute to be used for the Liberty Elm. A Thank you for Liberty Elm must be sent to All Metals Industries (Jim to do).
 - b. Commemorative Plaques for all trees along the walking path, entrance and the ball field will be procured over the winter months and installed in Spring. Graphics Design (John Renzi company) will produce them at cost. Jim will determine how to deliver our content and design for these plaques.
6. Fall Newsletter to go with Census mailing in Jan. Draft is available for review by committee members. We will use Aldam Press to print and fold. We will price out printing in color since we have many nice pictures of Arbor Day and the Tree planting at Laston. Number of flyers needed must be determined as well as the date to help stuff the census mailing envelopes so we can get the

flyers printed with plenty of time. Kacy will contact Ruth to find out number and date. Jim will contact Aldam Press to cost out the printing and format requested (electronic or hardcopy).

7. Tree City Certification for 2015

- a. Locations were discussed for 2 new Tree City signs we received this year. One sign should be placed on Brodie Mt Road since this entrance to Lanesborough gets high visibility from many visitors to Jiminy Peak. The other should be placed on Rt 8 in a location that gets noticed and is not cluttered with other signs. Jim will contact highway department to see what steps/permissions are required especially for state road signage. Also we would like to move the existing sign on Rt 7 northbound to a less cluttered location like the stretch near Skyline.
- b. Tree City Certification forms for 2015 will be prepared by Jim after Jan 1 with goal to submit by end of Jan.

8. Other Old/New Business

- a. Update Volunteer time to reflect Texas Hold'em and Dec Meeting. No new Expense items were submitted.
- b. Tree Maintenance on hold until spring when we can see how all the new trees emerge from dormancy. Committee members will have to research pruning for the many new trees to make sure we do it correctly and at the right time.
- c. Tree planting in 2016. We will determine if there is an opportunity to plant a tree in Berkshire Village near the memorial across from Union Chapel or some other public location.
- d. Jim will contact Race Mt Tree service to coordinate 2016 fungicide injection for King Elmer and have them evaluate when the next pruning should be performed.
- e. Discussion of date to celebrate Arbor Day 2016. Suggest Fri May 13, 2016 as opportunity to create a spooky tree theme. Paula will contact Ms Mello 3rd Grade Teacher to get her recommendation and take school calendar into consideration. Tree Committee can support any mid May date.
- f. Discussion of an initiative for an Educational woodlands trail. BNRC has property adjacent to Laston Park. Tree and Forest Committee could partner with them to develop a trail starting at Laston Park and connecting to existing trails on Constitution Hill. We could learn from BNRC expertise in developing trails and obtaining grants. This knowledge could then be applied at a future date to develop an educational trail on town woodland property off Ore Bed Rd. Jim will contact Bill Girard now to see if he has time to show us the Ore Bed Rd woodland property.

9. Next Meeting is TBD and will depend on whether Town clerk needs our support in January to stuff the Newsletter into the census mailings. Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Neureuther, acting secretary